

England. Circulation beyond this sum was represented by the coin reserve of the bank and could be increased only by deposits of coin. The banking department was utilized for several years for swelling the paper issues in much the same manner as when the suspension of the bank act is authorized in England. These special issues consisted for the most part of the notes which the bank was ordered to call in and destroy by the ukase of iSSi, but which were kept in reserve until special authority was given for their re-issue against new deposits of securities or transfers of gold to the cash reserves.¹ The government, by a ukase of December 9, 1894, abolished the distinction between the authorized permanent circulation and the temporary circulation charged against the banking department by transferring the temporary issues from the banking department to the issue department. The limit of authorized circulation without metallic cover was increased by this process from 568,513,000 roubles to 769,342,911 roubles, exclusive of about 285,000,000 roubles covered by gold. Both sides of the account of the banking department were diminished by the amount thus transferred, — 200,829,455 roubles,—and by an additional sum of 65,433,-691 roubles transferred in gold from the banking to the issue department as the gold value of that part of the increased permanent issue not represented by securities.²

The total gold funds of the bank and the Treasury on January 1, 1895, were 645,731,000 roubles (\$500,000,000). This sum was not all in actual gold held in Russia, the sum of 58,331,000 roubles representing foreign credits payable in gold on demand ; but the Treasury alone had a gold fund of 194,410,000 roubles and the bank held 39,540,000 roubles in gold in its banking department, exclusive of that held against outstanding notes.³ The funds then set aside to

¹1/e*vy, 201-203.

² *Bulletin Russe de Statistique*, Jan.-Feb., 1895, 34-37.

³It is interesting to note that 28,654,937 roubles (\$21,500,000) of these foldings was in American half-eagles, the largest amount of foreign coin held of a single kind except 38,117,580 roubles (\$29,000,000) in English sovereigns.—*Bulletin J Russe de Statistique*, March, 1895, 170.